



CITY OF IONIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, Wednesday, October 15, 2025
IONIA THEATRE

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson John Krueger called the meeting of the Ionia Downtown Development Authority to order at 8:00 AM.

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Roll call revealed a Quorum with Board Members Tricia Meyers, Heather Poland-Sizemore, Benjamin Weller, Precia Garland, Ryan Wilson, Dustin Sommer, and John Krueger present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Member Wilson discussed IACC upcoming events including Thirsty Thursday at the Social House and Autumn Celebration. Board Member Wilson also noted the success of MiPitch and two DDA businesses placing in the top 5 and receiving funds.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

(IV.1.) To approve October 15, 2025 meeting agenda.

With no changes or additions, Member Garland made a motion, seconded by Member Sommer, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(V.1.) To approve the minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting.

Minutes from the regular meeting of September 17, 2025, were reviewed. Member Wilson made a motion, seconded by Member Weller, to approve the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

(VI.1.) To accept the Accounts Payables for the DDA: August 26, 2025 – September 25, 2025 in the amount of \$4,016.14

To accept the Accounts Payables for the Theatre: August 26, 2025 – September 25, 2025 in the amount of \$8,192.90

Financials from September were reviewed. Member Sommer made a motion, seconded by Member Weller to accept financials as presented.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

VII. DDA DIRECTOR REPORT

(VII.1.) Report included in Board Agenda Packet.

Director Rice reviewed the status of the Bulldogs Unleashed project, noted the new street closure reminder system, and noted the CIP projects as well as a handful of items of interest to develop, like downtown seating and continued placemaking efforts.

VIII. THEATRE REPORT

(VIII.1.) Report included in Board Agenda Packet.

Director Rice reviewed the movies played and upcoming schedule. She also noted that there has been an increase in private event inquiries due to the online submission form now available.

IX. BOARD DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

(IX.1.) Ionia Free Fair Table

A brief discussion on engagement of businesses for this space was had. Member Wilson made a motion to purchase the inline merchant booth and an extra parking pass for the 2026 Free Fair, seconded by Member Sommer.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(X.1.) Marketing Committee Update

Marketing Committee met to discuss 2026 planning. It was determined to host at least 2 DDA Appreciation Events a year, One Educational Opportunity and One City Stroll each quarter, with the continued support of previous events. Additional targets include a historic listing of buildings, vacancy promos, determining a brand/tag, business segment and location highlights and interacting with other chambers, cities and businesses. Bulldogs Unleashed Auction underway, with only a handful of dogs without bids. Closes after Autumn Celebration.

XI. OTHER

XII. ADJOURNMENT

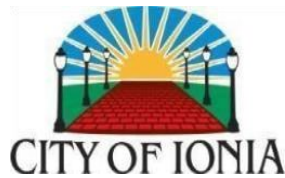
Member Sommer made a motion, seconded by Member Wilson, to adjourn.

MOTION BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Rice, Recording Secretary
for Heather Poland-Sizemore, Secretary



**Ionia Downtown Development Authority Director's Report
October 2025**

Economic Development / Special Events / District Activity / Business Updates

- Responded to and assisted with multiple event inquiries, including scheduling, coordination, and follow-up for both confirmed and prospective downtown activities.
- Attended MiPitch, where two downtown businesses successfully received grant funding.
- Submitted a grant application for the Ionia Theatre to support ongoing preservation and improvement efforts.
- Bulldogs Unleashed – coordinated all logistics including securing bulldogs, staging displays, launching and promoting the online auction, and coordinating community engagement efforts.
- Provided event assistance for ICOA and Independent Bank's Alzheimer's Walk, including logistics, set-up, and day-of support.
- Met with potential participants regarding Social District expansion, discussing licensing requirements, participation interest, and economic benefits.
- Continued engagement with local property and business owners (current and prospective) regarding vacant properties, redevelopment interest, façade improvements, and grant opportunities.
- Assisted with holiday preparation planning and early coordination for seasonal downtown promotions.

Meetings / Seminars / Webinars / Education

- Attended and contributed to:
 - Regular City Council, Department Head, DDA Board of Directors, City Manager connection, IBPW, DDA Marketing Committee monthly meeting
 - ICOA and Independent Bank Alzheimer's Walk Planning/Prep
 - Downtown speaker training

Additional Notes

- Theatre counter work for special weekend event

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Rice, Ionia DDA and Theatre Director

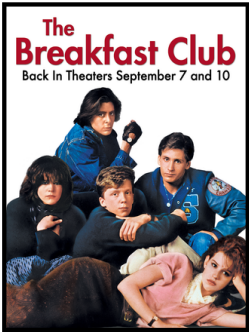
Upcoming DDA Events:

- Autumn Celebration – Thursday, October 23rd 4:30-7:30pm (Co-sponsored with IACC, Independent Bank and Restore Church)
- FREE MOVIE – October 27th 7pm "Gremlins"
- DDA Appreciate Night – November 2025
- Town Tree Lighting and Twinkle Town Parade – December 5th

IONIA THEATRE MONTHLY REPORT

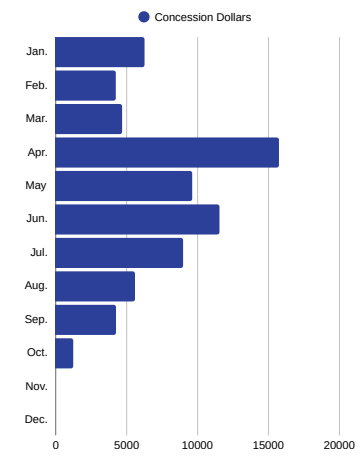
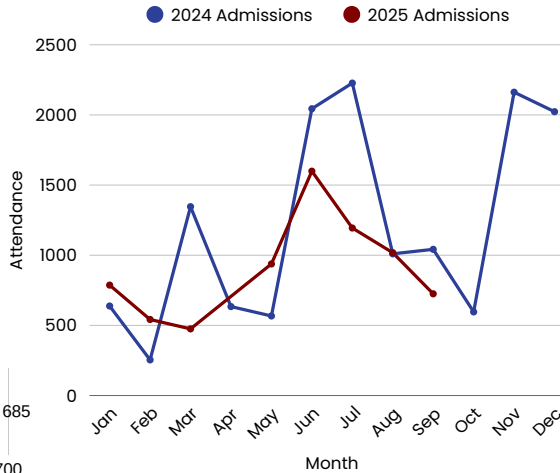
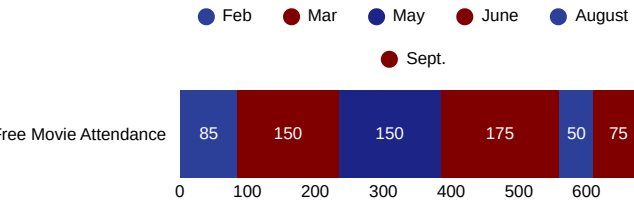


MOVIES PLAYED IN SEPTEMBER



BY THE NUMBERS...

MONTHLY SHOWINGS	MONTHLY ATTENDANCE
84	725
Compared to Last Year -2	Compared to Last Year -317



UPCOMING @ THE THEATRE

EVENTS

10/23 Autumn Celebration	10/27 WION Free Movie Monday	10/28 ISD Night Out	NOV DDA Appreciation Event	NOV Movie Mix Up	11/29 Small Biz Saturday	NOV/DEC Multiple District Class Field Trips	FIRST 2 WEEKS OF DEC. IPS Holiday Programs	12/5 Tree Lighting and Twinkle Town Parade